

Yandell (S.W.)

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## SUPPLEMENT.

### A REPLY.



"I shall, no doubt, be criticised by many for dwelling so long on a subject which to them will appear low, vulgar, and trifling. . . . Were I to treat my subject superficially, my writing would be of no use to any body, and my labor would be lost; but by investigating it thoroughly I may, perhaps, engage others to pay that attention to it which, from its importance, it deserves."—COUNT RUMFORD.

[6] I find myself the subject of an offensive paragraph in a printed circular which, though without signature, was issued by the Louisville Medical College of this city. This circular has been distributed among the students now in attendance on my lectures at the University of Louisville, and scattered broadcast over the country.

I have also been assailed by the same source, over its faculty name, in the Courier-Journal newspaper.

Attacks of such character on my own name I can well afford to leave unanswered. But in both the articles alluded to, and in yet another which I shall recur to presently, the University of Louisville, in whose service my revered father spent all his best days and in which for more than thirty years I have been a teacher, has been assailed in such terms as to make some reply expedient if not necessary.

The other article to which I just referred appeared as an editorial in the January number of the Medical Herald, a journal published in this city and owned by two of the teachers in the Louisville Medical College. It reads as follows: "*The Louisville Medical College has been assailed both in the present and in*

*the past by as able a body of perjurers, mendacious scribblers, and unscrupulous slanderers as exist in the land!"*

As the University of Louisville was the chief instrument, some years back, in directing public attention to the irregular practices of the Louisville Medical College, and equally the chief agent in compelling that institution to abandon them, the editorial quoted is unmistakably aimed at the University. And the Herald being the organ of the Louisville Medical College, this assault on the University, no less than that contained in the printed circular, and that published in the Courier-Journal, was made by the Louisville Medical College. The three articles are so many attacks upon the University—nothing more, nothing less. The organ of the Louisville Medical College means by the word "*present*" in its editorial also to designate the University. For when it became apparent early last autumn that the Louisville Medical College, after five years of reasonably good behavior, had begun to return to its old sins, the Louisville Medical News journal, edited by two members of the University faculty, asked the school to give over its palpable misconduct. The answer to this request is contained in the several assaults I have indicated.

A sense of duty to the profession at large, to medical teaching, and the University of Louisville in particular, and to myself individually, leads me to undertake a task which, though excessively unpleasant, I shall not find very difficult. It is unpleasant because it involves the exposure of several persons whom I like. It is easy, because I shall rest my case on the written statements of the persons whom I accuse. I shall use plain words because I realize the importance of the subject. I shall use courteous words because I realize my own position. Not many of them will be my words, because better are at hand, furnished by the practices and persons I am going to portray. I shall make no statement which can not be substantiated by documentary evidence.

I am going to make no defense of the University of Louisville. That institution is not on trial. But in the interests of legitimate teaching, and of the dignity and honor of medicine, I am



going to show the antecedents, the character, and the practices of its assailant. In order to do this in the most effective way I am going to arraign the Louisville Medical College before the bar of professional opinion—the highest tribunal known to physicians—on the general charge of practices which are disreputable in themselves and subversive of many of the best interests of the profession.

I shall prove that it has broken faith with other medical schools in this city and elsewhere, in that in its printed advertisements its fees are put at eighty dollars, and in the face of these published terms it has flooded the country with so-called beneficiary scholarships, wherein it volunteers to accept fifty, nay even forty dollars for tuition instead of eighty dollars as advertised.

I shall also prove that through its officers and attachés it has solicited in almost every part of America students by letter to accept these scholarships.

I shall establish that in addition to such solicitations being themselves repugnant to all right feeling men, they are in direct violation of articles of public agreement among a large number of the best medical schools of the United States, and contrary to the sentiment of all respectable teaching bodies every where, and that the Louisville Medical College signed the agreement referred to.

I shall further show that these letters of solicitation contain statements which are the very opposite of the truth, and promises which in the nature of things could never be fulfilled.

I shall prove that the present is not the first time the Louisville Medical College has sinned in the ways named, but that it is an old offender, one who has been tried and convicted before the same bar in whose presence it now stands of the same high crimes and misdemeanors with which it is now charged.

Finally, I shall prove that the practices which I have named not only bring the profession into disrepute, "but do great mischief to many young men who have been deluded into the snares of the institution."

Before proceeding to substantiate the foregoing statements by the testimony of witnesses, I shall save time by giving a short sketch of the accused.

The birth of the Louisville Medical College, which occurred in 1869, was regarded wherever known with suspicion. Its very name was believed by the public to have been chosen by its founders in the expectation that it would deceive the unwary, and thus add to the size of its classes. In other terms, it began life as a pirate, in that it imitated a trade-name under which a rival college had during a long and honorable career won deserved distinction.

With its first public announcement the Louisville Medical College entered upon a career of unexampled wrong and pursued it during a period of eight years—from 1869 to 1877—pursued it, indeed, until it was arrested by the Louisville Medical News journal, which prosecuted it with a vigor that secured its early conviction and won a verdict which was received with approval by the profession every where. The institution now publicly confessed its sins and promised to abandon them. It signed written agreements with large numbers of respectable colleges in different parts of the country to charge a uniform rate for tuition, to receive but five per cent of beneficiaries—the basis of calculation being the class of the preceding year—to be careful in the selection of them even—to solicit no one and to underbid other institutions in no way whatever. This was in the summer of 1877. For five years the reform of the Louisville Medical College seemed to be genuine. Occasionally reports would come of a tendency to backslide, but no public charges were laid at its door.

It pursued its way unmolested, but its classes fell off. It made many and radical changes in its faculty, but the falling off in its classes continued. Something had to be done. It abandoned its old quarters, leased a dwelling-house and changed it to a lecture-house. But an open field and honest practices had not proved wholesome to the Louisville Medical College, and realizing that the shrinkage in its classes could be stayed by no



other means it plunged without one moment's warning back into the very nastiness out of which the University had lifted it a few years ago. For a second time it resorted to the same discreditable means which in days gone by had filled its benches.

This was last summer—the summer of 1883.

As a result of these recent misdeeds the institution is now again presented as a public enemy—as the enemy of uprightness and fair dealing in the profession of which it claims to be an instructor.

In this connection I will add that the present Professors of Anatomy and of Obstetrics in the Louisville Medical College held similar positions in that institution during the period alluded to and that the present Professor of Clinical and Operative Surgery was also identified with the institution at an earlier date. Neither of these, therefore, can be allowed to plead in extenuation of this, their second offense, that they were ignorant of the law or the penalty for its infraction. The two first named teachers paid very dearly for a lesson which they seem to have soon forgot.

The present Professor of the Principles and Practice of Medicine in the Louisville Medical College was, with the late R. O. Cowling, Professor of Surgery in the University of Louisville, co-editor of the Louisville Medical News journal, during the first two years of its existence, the eventful period when that trenchant sheet consecrated its fine powers to exposing the wrongs, uncovering the irregularities, and shattering the shams then practised by the institution in which he now holds a place. He unquestionably contributed his part to holding the Louisville Medical College up to the gaze of men; he assisted in hammering it into a public confession of its sins and extorting from it promises to lead in future a more honorable and cleanly life. I shall not attempt to show that the present Professor of Principles and Practice of Medicine in the Louisville Medical College wrote all the articles contained in that journal assailing the practices of the Louisville Medical College, for he did not. But he certainly wrote some of them, and just as certainly sug-

gested others. And those who knew him at that time—who knew him before he linked his fortunes with the Louisville Medical College, could not be made to believe that he did not sanction and approve the course of that journal when its every issue was an assault upon the evils for which he must now be held in part responsible. But whether he actually penned many or none of the editorials referred to—numbers of which I shall have occasion to introduce in evidence—he was *responsible for ALL throughout the entire time that he was connected with the News*. I do not believe he himself will deny this responsibility. For up to the day that he cast his lot with the Louisville Medical College, no one was more ready than he to condemn, to denounce, to spit upon whatever was unprofessional or savored of bad faith. None knew better than he did then—none knows better than he does at this moment that the practice of flooding the country with beneficiary scholarships, of urging medical students to accept a medical education as a gratuity, “tends,” as he expressed it in the News, “to destroy the independence of character of the future medical men of the country, to invite into the profession men who have no particular taste for it, but who are tempted by the privilege accorded to them of a cheap medical education.” None realized more fully than he the truth of the following, which appeared in his journal, written perhaps by himself, of the very school in which he is now a teacher, and when its “miserable beneficiary sham,” as he called it, was no more offensive to decent men than at present:

“This is a magnificent sham you are invited to assist; a solemn humbug; a fearful sell.”

“We greatly doubt if there is any thing in the civilized world like the beneficiary system of the Louisville school. The beneficiary system of the school is indefensible even were it built upon a fee ten times as large.”

But to the proof.

The witnesses I shall introduce are drawn exclusively from the institution at the bar. They compose its faculty, and their names and positions are as follows:

C. W. Kelly, M. D., Descriptive and Surgical Anatomy and



Clinical Medicine, Registrar; J. A. Ireland, M. D., Obstetrics and Gynecology, Dean; L. D. Kastenbine, A. M., M. D., Chemistry and Urinology; Turner Anderson, M. D., Materia Medica and Therapeutics; Edward Miller, M. D., Principles and Practice of Surgery, Secretary; W. H. Galt, M. D., Principles and Practice of Medicine; James M. Holloway, M. D., Clinical and Operative Surgery; Sam. Cochran, M. D., Physiology. Demonstrators: Sam. Cochran, M. D., Anatomy; George M. Warner, M. D., Materia Medica and Practice of Medicine; H. B. Ritter, M. D., Obstetrics and Gynecology; Wm. T. Carter, M. D., Diseases of Children.

By these I shall prove beyond all possible question every charge I have made, and, having done so, I shall simply ask the same verdict which was rendered in May, 1877, against the same offender for the same crimes. I shall be content with this; for I am exposing measures, not men.

In order that it may be seen that the Louisville Medical College is guilty of practices which are disreputable in themselves and subversive of many of the best interests of the profession, I ask attention to a few letters, selected at random from innumerable specimens at hand, which were addressed to medical students in Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, Texas, etc. Every letter of the many I have bears the official imprint of the Louisville Medical College, and contains a wood-cut of its building, a list of its entire faculty and the names of its trustees.

I take a letter of the Secretary of the Faculty first. He writes:

LOUISVILLE MEDICAL COLLEGE,  
LOUISVILLE, KY., August 10, 1883. }

*Dear Sir*—I send you to-day one of our catalogues. You will see therein that our regular fee is \$80, but, under the circumstances, I will receive you for one half the regular fee—that is, \$40—so that your entire college expenses, including the graduation fee, will be \$70. As soon as you reach the city, call upon Dr. Kelly or myself, corner of Second and Green streets, and you will at once be shown to a boarding-house, and thus save hotel bill. We will be happy to see you, and will do our best to make you feel at home.

Very respectfully,

—————

The Secretary of the Faculty reduces the regular fee by one half, while the Professor of Physiology is a little less liberal and demands fifty dollars:.

LOUISVILLE MEDICAL COLLEGE,  
LOUISVILLE, KY., Aug. 15, 1883. }

*Dear Sir*—A friend writes me that you purpose attending medical lectures. I write to present to you the claims of Louisville—the medical center of the South and West, the healthiest large city in America, beyond the reach of yellow fever, etc. Good board, costing elsewhere \$20 to \$30, can be had here for \$12 to \$15 per month. Owing to our great Exposition, railroad rates will be only half rate. No school has better facilities for medical teaching than the Louisville Medical College. I send you catalogue. As I am allowed a certain number of beneficiaries for your State, I will take you as one, and charge you only \$50 instead of \$80. With this reduction, cheapness of board, and reduced railroad fare, you can attend one of the best schools for less money than an inferior one. Let me hear from you, and send names of other medical students, and oblige yours, etc.,

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The Demonstrator of Obstetrics seems to have been accorded the privilege of admitting students on the same terms as those offered by the Secretary of the Faculty—forty dollars—as is shown in the following:

LOUISVILLE MEDICAL COLLEGE.

*My Dear Sir*—A friend writes me that you purpose attending medical lectures. I write to present the claims of Louisville—the medical center of the South and West, the healthiest large city in America. Owing to our Exposition, railroad fare to Louisville will be only one half rate. Good board, costing elsewhere \$20 to \$30, can be had here for \$12 to \$15 per month. No school has better facilities for medical teaching than the Louisville Medical College. As I am allowed a certain number of beneficiaries from your State, I will take you as one, and charge you only \$40 instead of \$80. With this reduction, cheapness of board, and reduced railroad fare, you can attend one of the best schools for less money than an inferior one. Let me hear from you, and send names of other students.

Very truly yours,

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The Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology being perhaps too busily engaged in casting the beneficiary drag-net over some



more remote State, confided the State of Tennessee to the Demonstrator of Chemistry. As no such officer appears in the advertisement of the school—from which the copy on a foregoing page was made—it is proper, lest I should be accused of inaccuracy, to say that the office is found in the faculty letter-heads, and is filled by Sam. E. Woody, A. M., M. D., and he writes this letter :

LOUISVILLE MEDICAL COLLEGE,  
LOUISVILLE, KY., August 4, 1883. }

*Dear Sir*—Yours of day before yesterday was handed me this morning by Prof. Ireland, for the correspondence of Tennessee is usually delegated to me. By this mail I send catalogue. As I am allowed a certain number of beneficiaries from your State, I will take you as one, and charge you only \$50 instead of \$80. With this reduction in fees, together with the cheapness of living in Louisville, and the reduced railroad fare during the Exposition, you can attend one of the best schools for less money than an inferior one. Please let me hear from you. Send names and addresses of other students.

Very truly yours, \_\_\_\_\_

The Demonstrator of Materia Medica also has beneficiary powers, and writes :

LOUISVILLE MEDICAL COLLEGE,  
LOUISVILLE, KY., October 24, 1883. }

*Dear Sir*—Yours of September 30th received. I send by this mail catalogue of Louisville Medical College. If you will send in your name at once I can procure a beneficiary fee for you. This will be \$50 instead of \$80, as mentioned in catalogue. Dissecting ticket is extra, \$10. Board may be had, as stated in circular, for from \$12 to \$15. This includes lodging, fire, fuel, water, etc.; washing about \$1 per month. Let me hear from you at once, in order that your name may be registered as a beneficiary.

Yours respectfully, \_\_\_\_\_

I have now shown copies of letters from two professors and three demonstrators. A letter from the fourth demonstrator will appear later.

I shall prove the first and second charges by the following extract from the annual advertisement of the Louisville Medical College for the session of 1883-1884 :

“In recognition of the standard of policy adopted by the Association of American Medical Colleges, convened at Chicago, Ill., June 4,

1877, the Beneficiary provisions will be limited to five per cent of the class. The general ticket fee will be \$75.00; Matriculation fee \$5.00."

Lest the foregoing should be thought somewhat ambiguous as to what the Registrar of the Louisville Medical College terms "the Beneficiary provisions," I transcribe the law on this subject as framed by the Association of American Medical Colleges:

The same fees may be reduced or remitted to deserving, indigent students, to a number not exceeding *five* per cent of the number of matriculates at the previous regular session of the college.

Under no circumstances whatever other than the above shall the faculties, or any members of the same, grant *upon their own authority* any remissions or reductions of established fees. And it is distinctly understood and agreed that the faculties will discountenance and oppose the authorizing by governing boards of the admission of individual students on other than the regularly established charges for their grade.

This makes "the beneficiary provisions" more easily understood. If the Louisville Medical College had eighty students at the session of 1882-3, it was, by the above compact, which it once signed with other colleges, entitled to grant just four beneficiary scholarships—no more. And yet its professors and demonstrators absolutely vie with each other in scattering these "beneficiary provisions," as they are called by the Registrar, from the Lakes to the Gulf. Was ever greater cheek exhibited by any institution of learning—by any institution of any kind—than that of the Louisville Medical College, which, professing in its printed advertisements to yield obedience to the law of the Association of Medical Colleges, is actually engaged, from the secretary down to the last of the demonstrators, in writing to students all over the country, offering to take them at half the price charged by neighboring schools?

Acknowledging fealty to the behests of the American Association of Medical Colleges, indeed! IT to publish in its circulars that "in recognition of the standard of policy adopted by the Association of American Medical Colleges convened at Chicago, June, 1877, the Beneficiary provisions will be limited to



five per cent of the class," *when it would be passing strange if out of all its present class five per cent could be found who were NOT beneficiaries!*

IT to state that it recognizes the policy adopted by the Association of American Medical Colleges, and with one hand to stand and distribute advertisements wherein its charges are fixed at eighty dollars, and with the other to indite letters to every student of medicine it can hear of, offering its tickets for forty dollars, just one half its advertised rates!

Reader, I know that after following me thus far you are prepared for almost any thing. No doubt you have about concluded that there is nothing the Louisville Medical College could do that would surprise you. But wait. I am going to tell you something now which would be impossible of belief were there not volumes of irrefragable proof and the author was any other than the Louisville Medical College. Here it is.

When the Louisville Medical News, edited now, mark you, by two teachers in the University of Louisville, had every letter that I have produced, another that I shall use later, and scores of others which I hold in reserve, it took occasion in a very temperate editorial, which appeared in November last, to call the attention of the authors to the evil of their conduct and warn them of its consequences. Whereupon the Faculty of the Louisville Medical College rushed into print in the circular letter I have previously mentioned *and flatly denied the entire charge.*

THIS DENIAL WAS MADE WHEN THE LOUISVILLE MEDICAL COLLEGE KNEW THAT THE VERY PROOF I AM NOW USING FOR ITS CONVICTION WAS IN POSSESSION OF THE PUBLIC.

You ask, was there ever before such assurance? Yes. Who displayed it? THE LOUISVILLE MEDICAL COLLEGE. When? In 1876. And in this way.

For a period of eight years—that is, from its youth up—the institution named had engaged in this same “wholesale debauchery,” as it was styled by the Louisville Medical News—the News, mark you, being edited, as I have said, at *that* time by the late Dr. Cowling and the present Professor of the Principles and

Practice in the Louisville Medical College. [Shall I say that the last named editor did not then occupy his present position?] The News openly charged the Louisville Medical College with being guilty of this and other iniquities. When lo! that institution not only denied the charges from A to izzard, but actually **BRANDED THEM AS FALSEHOODS**, and, to quote from the News, "Such a gush of billingsgate as ensued has never been heard since men fed on fish. 'Abortion,' 'coarseness,' 'impudence,' 'stench in the medical nostrils,' 'noisy ass,' 'Hottentot,' were some of the milder epithets with which the air was filled. And all this against the noble breast of the Louisville Medical News for its inveterate habit of telling the truth."

The public understood even at that time what weight to attach to statements coming from the Louisville Medical College, for right on the heels of this charge of falsehood against the News, the Medical College Convention spoke thus pointedly of the practice for which the News had assailed the Louisville Medical College: "The beneficiary system which is carried to such perfection in the school of double diplomas is unqualifiedly condemned"—the school of double diplomas as well as beneficiary scholarships being the Louisville Medical College.

As still further showing the temper of the professional mind concerning this beneficiary business, the Provisional Association of American Medical Colleges passed the following whereas and resolutions at its meeting held June, 1876, in Philadelphia:

*Whereas*, The practice of redacing or remitting in individual cases the established fees of a college has the objectionable feature of discriminating between students who may be equally deserving, and opening the door to possible gross abuses; therefore

*Resolved*, That this convention regards the above privilege as one to be deprecated in general, and, if put into practice at all, to be exercised both rarely and reluctantly, and only in unusual circumstances, and after *unsolicited* application by proven deserving candidates.

*Resolved*, That any thing like a wholesale system of such reduction or remission of established fees, or *any open solicitation of recipients of such favors*, be regarded as in the highest degree improper, and



that any college indulging in such practices deserves to forfeit its place on the *ad eundem* list of medical colleges.

The next four charges I shall establish by the following letter, which in its way has no parallel in medical annals, and places its writer *facile princeps* in epistolary literature. For truth and modesty it is certainly unrivaled. It alone would establish almost every charge I have made. It was written by the Demonstrator of Diseases of Children :

LOUISVILLE MEDICAL COLLEGE,  
LOUISVILLE, KY., August 14, 1883. }

*Dear Sir*—Your name has been kindly sent to me by a friend. I am not informed at what school you have taken your first course, but I am certainly anxious to have you take your last one with the Louisville Medical College—the foremost school in this country. It has graduated hundreds of the most successful practitioners in the world; and I am told that you will not fail to add luster to its name, should you wisely consent to complete your education here. This school has many important features possessed by no other school in the world, and has never been equaled as a brilliant instructor.

A limited number of beneficiary tickets will be issued to Kentucky students this fall. Now, if you wish to avail yourself of this favor, call upon me, or write at your earliest convenience.

The stage-coach from your place passes by my house. If you will stop as you come in town, you will certainly never regret having done so. The reputation you will acquire by graduating at the Louisville Medical College will aid you in obtaining a practice wherever you locate. Your preceptor will lose interest in you as soon as you locate and become his competitor for practice; but this school will assist you, if you need it, until you become, what all young men should strive to be, the best of good physicians. Call and become acquainted with the plan of instruction pursued by the Louisville Medical College. Believe me your friend,

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I shall not consume time by making copies of other letters, all of the same tenor, most in the same stereotyped style, and all signed by either professors or demonstrators in the Louisville Medical College. I have already said that I have numbers of them on file.

I would fain rest my case here, for I have no further stomach for this miserable business. But the same sense of duty which led me to undertake the painful task urges me to its completion.

The next witness I shall introduce is the Professor of the Principles and Practice of Medicine in the Louisville Medical College, by whom I shall prove the remaining charges. I shall allow him to tell in his own way what he thought in 1876 and 1877 of the school in which he now holds a chair—to tell in his own pointed words what he thought of the very practices of which, to the mortification of his many friends, be it said, he now declares himself to be the champion and defender. I shall not ask him to repeat all he said at the time referred to, for that would require page upon page to be added to an article already much too long.

He wrote in 1876 and 1877 that—

The Louisville School, in its desperate efforts to fill its benches, leaves no stone unturned.

*“Certain medical schools which annually flood this country with what they term ‘scholarships’ or beneficiary certificates, or some kind of positively irregular solicitations—or, as the students in their letters to other deans term them, ‘inducements’—to students to attend their lectures. This college has sent circulars to our janitor for distribution among our class while in actual attendance upon lectures, and ‘scholarships,’ or ‘beneficiary tickets,’ to others of our students.”*

The News copies this from another journal and asks ‘Who it can be?’ Need the reader be told who?

“Mr. Sale, the first witness, stated that it was the habit of this school to take students at even a lower figure than he had paid; in short, that students are taken at any price they choose to pay. In corroboration of this, Sale produced a letter signed by Dr. Gaillard, Dean of the Faculty, to a young man in Canada, offering to take him through a whole course of lectures for twenty-five dollars, and it is claimed that by the use of such means as these the Louisville Medical College has been enabled to swell its list of students to its present proportions.

They are not only bringing the profession into disgrace, but are doing great mischief to many innocent young men whom they have deluded into their snares.



We shall look to it that men who advertise over their "official signatures" for takers for these plausible documents shall know exactly what they are doing.

We owe it not only to the profession to attempt to stop this flood-gate, but to many honest young men who are being seduced by such plausible means to earn diplomas of which they can not in after life but be ashamed.

By an artfully contrived system of beneficiary scholarships modern medical schools are built up, and their benches are filled with students.

How long does he think that it would be before the profession would be contemptible, especially if all should go to work flooding the country with "beneficiary scholarships," urging students to accept a medical education as a gratuity? Does any one believe that the honor of the profession could survive such a policy?

*The Deluded Beneficiaries.*—The beneficiaries are continuing to arrive in the city—not in the same numbers as they did before the News began to expose the sham, but there are still far too many of them for the dignity of medicine, or, indeed, of manhood.

In contemplating this miserable beneficiary sham, one can but ask with the editor of the Richmond and Louisville Medical Journal, in the issue for January, 1869, By what principle of ethics are dishonorable practices in the doctor honorable in the teacher?

"What the Bi-Weekly [the organ of the Louisville Medical College] charged, and continues to charge, is that for a year or more the 'News' published in almost every issue statements in regard to the Louisville Medical College which are not true. The statements were known to the 'News' to be untrue, and yet they were persistently and interminably published," etc.

"Was it a falsehood to say that the beneficiary system of the Louisville School was the hollowest sham of the century? Are there *three* men in the school who are not beneficiaries?

"Was it a falsehood to say that the blather in which the Louisville circulars indulge about its being a high-fee school was 'conspicuously absurd?' Does n't it make you laugh?

"Do not the most of the students who go there feel called on to apologize for doing so?

"We have produced demonstrative proof for all we have said."

It does seem unnecessary for us to enter into any argument to convince professional readers of the evils of this system; it seems too patent.

The profession should certainly take the trouble to understand the matter. It is interested in stopping this wholesale debauchery. It can have no interest in pulling the drag-net which is to gather men so indiscriminately into its ranks. Students of medicine should know what is in store for them should they accept these singular gifts. They are to be branded as paupers.

In an open letter addressed by the News to the College Convention when it was about to assemble in 1877 it said :

"Any decision in regard to fees will be but an utter farce if it does not provide for the control of beneficiary scholarships. This journal has thoroughly exposed one of the most hideous forms in which the scholarship system is run. The convention could strike a double blow at this cunning piece of machinery by presenting it to the consideration of the Association and publishing to the people at large the discreditable work they are being seduced into doing. If it succeeds in doing nothing else than disposing of this sham in a satisfactory manner, the convention will justify its sitting." We leave it to your superior wisdom to find out a plan by which the really worthy and moneyless are to be provided for, other than by the wholesale system of debauchery at present indulged in by some."

Although the witness has by no means exhausted his utterances on "the miserable beneficiary sham," he has surely said enough for the present. Hear him now on the name of the Louisville Medical College :

*The Ultimatum of the News :* You should not, as you have done during the last seven years, imitate the title of another institution. You well know that three out of four of the men who receive the catalogues and scholarships of the "Louisville Medical College" very naturally suppose it is the "University of Louisville" which has issued them, and the suspicion that the name was adopted for a purpose has been very well founded.

About the same time he declared—

We fight for the common good of the profession, and we feel that we ought every where to be upheld.

We have felt all along that in our attempts to expose the state of affairs which exists in the Louisville School we labored under the



disadvantage of proving too much. The professional mind is slow to believe that such an enormity could exist any where.

The most charitable construction to put upon the actions of the Louisville School would be to regard them as those of an irresponsible being. If they do not condemn it to an asylum, they certainly should lodge it in a medical calaboose.

We have been obliged to lecture it and warn the community against it for a year past. Should we ever succeed in getting it straight, we will let you know ; but in the mean time have nothing to do with it.

Said the salutorian of the class on the evening of the commencement, "The Louisville Medical College is inferior to no *similar* institution in this country." *We ask, is there from Alaska to the Florida Reefs an institution similar to the Louisville Medical College?*

We have proved all these things.

The reward has been that scarcely two years have passed by, and the enemy here has been made a laughing-stock all over the country, and is in the throes of dissolution.

He then addresses a few words to the teachers in the Louisville Medical College which we commend to the present faculty :

There is no reason in the world why you should not make an honest living as teachers. There was no occasion for you to do all those disreputable things to get students, and you ought not to have allowed yourselves to be led into them. Of course we had to stop them. Do not be led off again, or rest assured we will come down on you once more.

Will they not learn that special pleadings can not prevail against the broad principles of truth ; and, seeing now that honor is lost, spurn the temptation offered by a miserable pittance to defend a wretched cause ?

We wish them (the faculty) personally every success. We would not turn a single dollar from its course toward their pockets.

[In both which sentiments I join most heartily.]

But private interests must yield to the public good.

The News then has the following for the students who were inattendance at the Louisville Medical College :

When you get by yourselves, where outside students can't see you, and forget for a moment how cruelly you have been taken in, don't

you kill yourselves laughing at the fearful sell which goes by the name of Phenomenon? [Louisville Medical College.] We know you do; and we know, too, that when you get safely home in January or February you are going to quit, then and there.

The next paragraph foreshadows the early surrender of the Louisville Medical College, and the News begins to soften, its declarations to the contrary notwithstanding.

We felt we had dealt the Phenomenon such blows that it must surely die. It was painful to us to invite against it its own blades.

"We have got it," says the News, "apparently into the College Association. We care very little about the blather it utters about wanting all this sort of thing, and being sorry that it did n't go further. We know humbug when we see it, especially when we look at it for seven years or so. We know how polite the word humbug can be. We have hammered it for months to our heart's and readers' content. We have said every thing we could possibly say about it, and proved it. We have run it into its hole."

If he will surrender these assumed privileges and get some responsible party to go on his bond for him, we will not only let him come out, but will divide our commissariat with him. We have not a bloodthirsty feeling in our bosom, and long for a return of peace.

The formal surrender of the Phenomenon occurred soon after, when the News wrote:

We are willing—nay, anxious—to extend to it a helping hand until it gets fairly started along the paths of decency.

We have succeeded before another bar—that of professional opinion—in condemning the former practices of the Louisville Medical College, and leading it into better paths.

It would be unfair to truth if I omitted to state that the News was the one and chief enemy of the Louisville Medical College throughout. All the time this sheet was engaged in warring on that institution, one of its editors, the witness, was a simple practitioner of medicine, connected with no medical school whatever. He claimed to be, and evidently was, without bias or prejudice attacking pretence, charlatanry, and deceit in whatever place and shape they were found in the profession.

A bold champion of the right, fighting for a higher medical education, a higher grade of medical students, a higher standard of morals in medical schools, and inculcating a better life in all ranks, he shared with Professor Cowling the perils and the glories of the campaign which he helped to conduct. And when at its close he resigned his editorial seat, he took with him the thanks of the profession for the part he had borne in the struggle.

Six years later—I write it with infinite pain—he, while holding a professorship in the Louisville Medical College and editing its organ, the Medical Herald, publishes that “*The Louisville Medical College has been pursued in the Past by as ABLE A BODY OF PERJURERS, MENDACIOUS SCRIBBLERS, AND UNSCRUPULOUS SLANDERERS AS EXIST IN THE LAND.*”

This from him!

I will stop here. I set out to expose the character, antecedents, and practices of the institution which, in the newspaper press, in a circular letter, and in the columns of its organ, the Medical Herald, has assailed the University of Louisville for having asked it in a courteous way to cease to do evil and learn to do right. I submit that I have done so. ✓

DAVID W. YANDELL.

LOUISVILLE, KY.



